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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gary CRANCE

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Title : ONLINE IMAGE PROTECTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231RECEIVED
MAY 15 2001
Technology Center 2100PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, 23-27, 30, 31, 36, and 42-51 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A computer-implemented method of protecting content, the method comprising:

presenting an indicator that differs from the content and indicates the presence of the content;

preventing the user from perceiving the content while the indicator is being presented;

receiving a request from a user to access the content;

enabling a user to perceive the content based on the request received from the user; and

preventing the user from capturing the content.

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2. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein preventing the user from capturing the content includes preventing the user from capturing the content while perception of the content is enabled.

3. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the content is an image and the indicator includes a display area that has substantially the same size as the image and is positioned at substantially the same location as the image.